Hardinge Medical College and Sucheta Kriplani Hospital. In these hospitals, medicines according to formulary are distributed free of cost to patients as per the existing policy. In case of non-availability of essential and life saving medicines, the same are also procured and supplied to poor patients free of cost.

Shortage of Serum for Rabies and Snake bite

1273. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of Serum required for the treatment of rabies and snake bite in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to ensure adquate supply of Serum in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. No shortage of Anti Rabies Serum (ARV) and Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) required for the treatment of Rabies and Ante Snake Venom Serum (ASVS) required for the treatment of snake bites have been reported.

(c) The production capacity of the institutions manufacturing these drugs are sufficient to meet the requirement in the country.

Deaths of women due to child birth related complications

1274. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every seven minutes a woman dies of child birth related complications in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to save the lives of pregnant women during child birth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes. Based on the official estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for India is 301 per 100,000 live births (SRS 2001-